

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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TAGS: OEXC IC (WEINTRAUB, SIDNEY)

SUBJECT: STAG SIDNEY WEINTRAUB

REF: STATE 251443, NOV 15, 1974; REYKJAVIK 0290

1. PROFESSOR WEINTRAUB IS AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER AND VALUABLE CONSULTANT. FIRST LECTURE, CO-SPONSORED BY ECONOMIC SOCIETY OF REYKJAVIK, WAS ATTENDED BY 35 OF ICELAND'S MOST PROMINENT ECONOMISTS; SECOND LECTURE, CO-SPONSORED BY ECONOMIC FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND, WAS HEARD BY APPROXIMATELY 60 PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS; FINAL LECTURE, HELD AT THE NATIONAL BANK OF ICELAND, WAS DELIVERED TO GROUP OF ICELANDIC CIVIL SERVANTS PROFESSIONALLY CONCERNED WITH ECONOMICS. ALL LECTURES INCLUDED DISCUSSION PERIOD.

2. WEINTRAUB'S WILLINGNESS TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH ICELANDIC COLLEAGUES ENABLED HIM TO HAVE EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS WITH HEAD OF ICELAND'S ECONOMIC INSTITUTE, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK,
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AND LEADING ECONOMISTS AT THE CENTRAL BANK OF ICELAND. THESE

MEETINGS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND THEORIES WHICH PROVED INVALUABLE TO OVERALL SUCCESS OF PROGRAM.

3. POST FOUND PROFESSOR WEINTRAUB EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN KEEPING FULL SOCIAL SCHEDULE: IN ADDITION TO TWO EMBASSY FUNCTIONS HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR TO WHICH HE WAS INVITED, HE ATTENDED A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY EMBASSY ECONOMICS OFFICER AT WHICH THE AMBASSADOR AND SEVERAL ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS WERE GUESTS, A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE STAFF OF THE CENTRAL BANK'S STATISTICAL REVIEW BULLETIN, AND A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE ECONOMISTS OF THE CENTRAL BANK. WEINTRAUB WAS ALSO THE DINNER GUEST OF THE PROFESSORS OF ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY AND OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK, AND WAS GUEST OF A BANK DIRECTOR AT A SYMPHONY CONCERT.

4. PROFESSOR WEINTRAUB'S COLLEAGUES IN REYKJAVIK FOUND HIM TO BE A "STIMULATING" AND "EXTREMELY INTERESTING" VISITOR EVEN WHEN DISAGREEING WITH HIS THEORIES. HE IN TURN FOUND HIS ICELANDIC COLLEAGUES TO BE "VERY ABLE."

5. POST INITIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT COOLNESS AND APPARENT POMPOUSNESS IN WEINTRAUB'S PERSONALITY BUT ECONOMIC COLLEAGUES DISCUSSED THIS AND SAID THEY FOUND HIM ENGAGING AND STIMULATING. POSSIBLY IN CONTACTS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS HIS DOGMATISM WOULD BE LESS ACCEPTABLE. HE HAD A TENDENCY TO "TALK DOWN" TO THE YOUNGER GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS, BUT THE LATTER DID NOT SEEM TO RESENT IT.

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